

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

-----032329Z 117377 /75/21

P R 020435Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9171

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6577

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR E.O. LINE AND PARA 1

LINE 2 6TH WORD VICE MEN)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RP, XF

SUBJ: MNLF/ISLAMIC CONFERENCE/GOP NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) MANILA 6575; B) MANILA 6560 (NOTAL)

1. DURING THIRD DISCUSSION WITHIN WEEK ON SUBJECT NEGOTIATIONS
DEFENSE SECRETARY PONCE ENRILE TOLD ME MAY 2 THAT DURING APRIL
30 TALSK, MNLF/IC GROUP REMAINED ADAMANT ON BASIC QUESTIONS
OF COMPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND STRUCTURE OF AUTON-
OMOUS REGION. WHEREAS GOP WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES
TO ITS OWN POSITIONS, ACCORDING TO ENRILE. AS A RESULT, THEY
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CAN BE SAID TO HAVE BROKEN OFF NEGOTIATIONS. ENRILE SAID THAT
WHEN HE INDICATED TO LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALI TURAYKI THAT
GOP INTERPRETS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE TRIPOLI AGREEMENT
TO BE VIS-A-VIS THE MUSLIM MINORITY AS SUCH IN THE PHILIPPINES,
ALI TURAYKI OBSERVED THAT THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES SHOULD
RATHER BE CONSIDERED TO APPLY VIS-A-VIS THE MNLF. ENRILE SIAD
THAT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

2. WHEN I ASKED ENRILE IF HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE IN MINDANAO, HE REPLIED "YES, WE THINK SO". HE SAID THAT ALI TURAYKI PRIOR TO DEPARTURE ASKED HIM TO PROTECT THE IC CEASE-FIRE TEAMS IN MINDANAO TO WHICH ENRILE SAID HE REPLIED, "OF COURSE, WE ARE CIVILIZED PEOPLE; YOU CAN REST ASSURED." ACCORDING TO ENRILE, THE CEASE-FIRE TEAMS WILL REMAIN ACTIVE UNTIL MAY 15, AND THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE CONVENES MAY 16, WHICH HE SEEMED TO THINK SHOULD KEEP THE SITUATION IN MINDANAO FROM HEATING UP OVER THE NEXT WEEKS.

3. COMMENT: ENRILE AGREED THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS A CONTINUING PROCESS WITH FORMAL TALKS SUSPENDED, BUT EACH SIDE LIKELY TO REASSESS ITS POSITION THROUGH THE IC MEETING, AND WITH TALKS LIKELY TO BE RESUMED THEREAFTER. UP TO THIS POINT AT LEAST, THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN PERHAPS BE BEST JUDGED BY WHAT HAS NOT HAPPENED, (RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES), RATHER THAN BY THEIR AVOWED OBJECTIVE (GENERAL SETTLEMENT). STULL

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Message Attributes

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